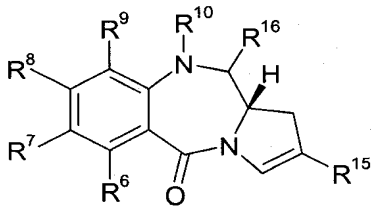
Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A compound of formula **III**:



III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms and prodrugs thereof~~, wherein:

R^6 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo;

R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl and C_{5-20} aryl groups;

the compound being ~~is~~ a dimer with each monomer being of formula (**III**), where the R^8 groups of each monomer form together a dimer bridge having the formula -X-R"-X- linking the monomers, where R" is a C_{3-12} alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH, and R^7 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo,

or any pair of adjacent groups from R^6 to R^9 together form a group

$-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2;

either R^{10} and R^{16} together form a double bond between N10 and C11, or R^{10} is H and R^{16} is OH ~~is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group; and~~

~~R^{16} is O-R^{11}, wherein R^{11} is an oxygen protecting group~~, and

R^{15} is an optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl group,

wherein the optionally substituents are independently selected from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, C_{5-20} aryl, halo, hydroxyl, ether, alkoxy, acetal, hemiacetal, ketal, hemiketal, oxo, thione, imino, formyl, acyl, carboxy, thiocarboxy, thiolocarboxy, imidic acid, hydroxamic acid, ester, acyloxy, oxycarboyloxy, amino, amido, thioamido, acylamido, aminocarbonyloxy, ureido, guanidine, tetrazolyl, amindino, nitro, nitroso, azido, cyano, isocyano, cyanato, isocyanato, thiocyano, isothiocyano, sulfhydryl, thioether, disulfide, sulfine, sulfone, sulfinic acid,

sulfonic acid, sulfinate, sulfonate, sulfinyloxy, sulfonyloxy, sulfate, sulfamyl, sulfonamide, sulfamino, sulfonamino, sulfinamino, phosphino, phosphor, phosphinyl, phosphono, phosphono ester, phosphonooxy, phosphonooxy ester, phosphorous acid, phosphate, phosphoramidite, or phosphoramidate.

15. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 14, wherein the dimer bridge has the formula $-O-(CH_2)_n-O-$ linking the monomers, where n is from 3 to 12.

16. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, wherein n is from 3 to 7.

17. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^{10} and R^{16} together form a double bond between N10 and C11.

18. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 14 ~~11~~, wherein R^9 is H.

19. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim[[s]] 14 ~~11~~, wherein R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH_2, NHR, NRR' and halo.

20. (Canceled)

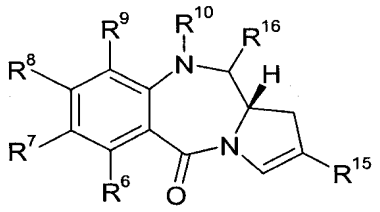
21. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of claim 14 ~~11~~, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of leukemia ~~a proliferative disease~~, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of claim 14 ~~11~~.

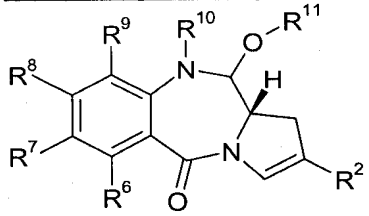
24.-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A method of synthesising a compound of formula **III**:



III

comprising reacting ~~from~~ a compound of formula I:



I

with a compound of formula z-R^{15} in a coupling reaction, wherein

R^6 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo;

R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted

C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl and C_{5-20} aryl groups;

R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo,

or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R^7 groups or R^8 groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula -X-R"-X- linking the monomers, where R" is a C_{3-12} alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH;

or any pair of adjacent groups from R^6 to R^9 together form a group

$-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2;

R^{10} is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group;

R^2 is a labile leaving group;

R^{16} is either O-R^{11}, where R^{11} is an oxygen protecting group, or OH, or R^{10} and R^{16} together form a double bond between N10 and C11;

z-R^{15} is any reactant suitable for a coupling reaction; and

R^{15} is [[R]] an optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl group,

wherein the optionally substituents are independently selected from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, C_{5-20} aryl, halo, hydroxyl, ether, alkoxy, acetal, hemiacetal, ketal, hemiketal, oxo, thione, imino, formyl, acyl, carboxy, thiocarboxy, thiolocarboxy, imidic acid, hydroxamic acid, ester, acyloxy, oxycarboyloxy, amino, amido, thioamido, acylamido, aminocarbonyloxy, ureido, guanidine, tetrazolyl, amindino, nitro, nitroso, azido, cyano, isocyano, cyanato,

isocyanato, thiocyano, isothiocyano, sulfhydryl, thioether, disulfide, sulfine, sulfone, sulfinic acid, sulfonic acid, sulfinate, sulfonate, sulfinyloxy, sulfonyloxy, sulfate, sulfamyl, sulfonamide, sulfamino, sulfonamino, sulfinamino, phosphino, phosphor, phosphinyl, phosphono, phosphono ester, phosphonooxy, phosphonooxy ester, phosphorous acid, phosphate, phosphoramidite, or phosphoramidate.

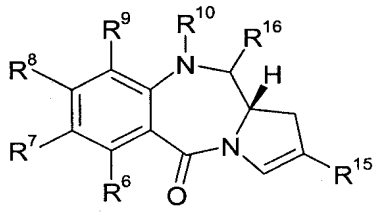
31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the synthesis of said compound of formula **III** uses a palladium catalysed coupling step.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the palladium catalyst is $Pd(PPh_3)_4$, $Pd(OCOCH_3)_2$, $PdCl_2$ or $Pd(dba)_3$.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the coupling reaction is performed under microwave conditions.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the palladium catalyst is solid supported.

35. (New) A compound of formula **III**



III

and salts and solvates thereof, wherein:
R^6 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo;
R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl and C_{5-20} aryl groups;
the compound being a dimer with each monomer being of formula (**III**), where the R^8 groups of each monomer form together a dimer bridge having the formula –X–R"–X– linking the monomers, where R" is a C_{3-12} alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more

heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH, and R^7 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo; or any pair of adjacent groups from R^6 to R^9 together form a group $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2;

R^{10} is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group;

R^{16} is $-O-R^{11}$, where R^{11} is an oxygen protecting group or H; and

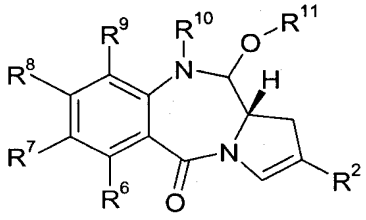
R^{15} is an optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl group,

wherein the optionally substituents are independently selected from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, C_{5-20} aryl, halo, hydroxyl, ether, alkoxy, acetal, hemiacetal, ketal, hemiketal, oxo, thione, imino, formyl, acyl, carboxy, thiocarboxy, thiolocarboxy, imidic acid, hydroxamic acid, ester, acyloxy, oxycarboyloxy, amino, amido, thioamido, acylamido, aminocarbonyloxy, ureido, guanidine, tetrazolyl, amindino, nitro, nitroso, azido, cyano, isocyano, cyanato, isocyanato, thiocyano, isothiocyano, sulfhydryl, thioether, disulfide, sulfine, sulfone, sulfinic acid, sulfonic acid, sulfinate, sulfonate, sulfinyloxy, sulfonyloxy, sulfate, sulfamyl, sulfonamide, sulfamino, sulfonamino, sulfinamino, phosphino, phosphor, phosphinyl, phosphono, phosphono ester, phosphonooxy, phosphonooxy ester, phosphorous acid, phosphate, phosphoramidite, or phosphoramidate.

36. (New) A compound according to claim 35, wherein R^{10} is Troc.

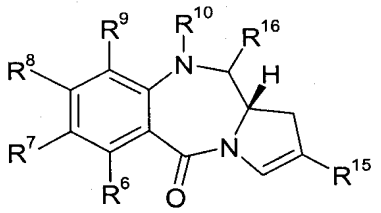
37. (New) A compound according to claim 35, wherein R^{11} is a silyl oxygen protecting group or THP.

38. (New) A compound of formula **I**:



I

for use in the synthesis of a compound of formula **III:**



III

wherein:

R^6 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo;

R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted

C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl and C_{5-20} aryl groups;

R^7 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo,

the compound of formula **III** being dimer with each monomer being of formula **III**, where the R^8 groups of each monomer form together a dimer bridge having the formula –X–R''–X– linking the monomers, where R'' is a C_{3-12} alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH;

or any pair of adjacent groups from R^6 to R^9 together form a group $–O–(CH_2)_p–O–$, where p is 1 or 2;

R^{10} is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group, or either R^{10} and R^{16} together form a double bond between N10 and C11, or R^{10} is H and R^{16} is OH;

R^{11} is an oxygen protecting group or H;

R^2 is a labile leaving group; and

R^{15} is an optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl group,

wherein the optionally substituents are independently selected from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, C_{5-20} aryl, halo, hydroxyl, ether, alkoxy, acetal, hemiacetal, ketal, hemiketal, oxo, thione, imino, formyl, acyl, carboxy, thiocarboxy, thiolocarboxy, imidic acid, hydroxamic acid, ester, acyloxy, oxycarboyloxy, amino, amido, thioamido, acylamido, aminocarbonyloxy, ureido, guanidine, tetrazolyl, amindino, nitro, nitroso, azido, cyano, isocyano, cyanato, isocyanato, thiocyano, isothiocyano, sulfhydryl, thioether, disulfide, sulfine, sulfone, sulfinic acid, sulfonic acid, sulfinate, sulfonate, sulfinyloxy, sulfonyloxy, sulfate, sulfamyl, sulfonamide, sulfamino, sulfonamino, sulfinamino, phosphino, phosphor, phosphinyl, phosphono, phosphono ester, phosphonooxy, phosphonooxy ester, phosphorous acid, phosphate, phosphoramidite, or phosphoramidate.

39. (New) A compound according to claim 19, wherein R^7 is OR.

40. (New) A compound according to claim 19, wherein R^7 is OMe.

41. (New) A compound according to claims 14 wherein R^{15} is a C_{5-20} aryl group optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of R, OH, OR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', CN, C(=O)H, C(=O)OH and halo.

42. (New) A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^{15} is a C_{5-20} aryl group substituted by OR.

43. (New) A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^{15} is a C_{5-20} aryl group substituted by OMe.

44. (New) A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^6 is H, R^7 is OMe, X is O, R" is $(CH_2)_3$, R^9 is H, R^{10} and R^{16} together form a double bond between N10 and C11, and R^{15} is para-methoxyphenyl.